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Title: Need to impress upon Government of Kerala not to construct check dams on Bhavani River till the final resolution of Cauvery River Water issue.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): River Bhavani is one of the main tributaries of the river Cauvery. The people of Tamil Nadu particularly in the Districts of the Nilgris, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode depend on waters of river Bhavani for irrigation and drinking water supply. It was reported that the Government of Kerala is trying to construct 6 check dams across the river Bhavani. Even the earth work for laying the foundation of 2 check dams at Thekkuvattai and Manjikandi and the work of levelling the land at Padavayal has commenced and materials for laying the foundation have also been stocked. These reports have caused serious concern and anxiety among the people of Tamil Nadu.

Since the entire matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, any attempt to construct check dams across the river Bhavani without disclosing the details of schemes and obtaining the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu would be violating the order of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal. This will affect the natural flow of the river Bhavani and consequently diminish the flows to Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu had already conveyed its strong objection to the construction of check dams by Kerala across the river Bhavani, without obtaining the prior concurrence of Tamil Nadu and in violation of the Final Order of the Tribunal.

In these circumstances, I urge the Union Government to intervene immediately in this regard and advise the Government of Kerala to immediately stop the construction of check dams across the river Bhavani. The Government of Kerala may also be advised strictly not to take up any such project or works without obtaining the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu and until the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and judicial references are finally settled.